Abstract Proceedings of the Travancore Legislative Council.

The Council met in the Dewan's room, Public Offices, at 12 Noon, on the 7th Mithunom 1090/21st June 1915.

Present.

M. KRISHNAN NAIR ESQ., B. A. & B. L., DEWAN.....*Presiding*
A. J. Vieyra Esq., B. A.
V. Subba Aiyar Esq., B. A. & B. L.
N. Subrahmanya Aiyar Esq., M. A.
P. Kuruvila Varkki Esq.
R. Mahadeva Aiyar Esq., B. A.
K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar Esq., M. A.
N. Raman Pillai Esq., B. A.
John Kuriyan Esq., B. A., B. C. E.
J. A. Richardson Esq.
K. Parameswaran Pillai Esq., B. A. & B. L.
K. G. Sesha Aiyar Esq., B. A. & B. L.
C. P. Thomas Esq., B. A. & L. T.
K. G. Parameswara Menon Esq., B. A. & B. L.
A. M. Kumara Pillai Esq., B. A. & B. L.
T. K. Velu Pillai Esq., B. A. & B. L.

S. Parameswara Aiyar Esq., M. A. & B. L.....*Ag. Secretary.*

The Ag. Secretary reported to the Council that the following petitions on the Christian Succession Bill had been received since the publication of the Select Committee's report :—

1. Petition dated the 25th February 1915, from Mr. Ittoop Ittiachan and certain other Christian Members of the Eleventh Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

2. Petition dated the 24th Medom 1090, from the Syrian Christian inhabitants of Ranni, Konni, Kumpazha, Elanthur and Omallur proverthies in the Chengannur taluk.

3. Petition dated the 17th May 1915, from the Most Revd. Titus Mar Thoma, Metrapolitan of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church, praying for a postponement of the consideration of the Bill.

4. Petition dated the 17th May 1915, from the Most Revd. Mar Dionysius, the Rt. Revd. Mar Evanios, the Rt. Revd. Mar Philixinos and the Rt. Revd. Mar Gregorius, of the Syrian Arch-Diocese of Malankara, praying for a postponement of the consideration of the Bill.

5. Petition dated the 31st may 1915, from the Rt. Revd. Mar Aloysius Pereparambil, Bishop of Ernakulam.

6. Petition received on the 4th June 1915, from Mr. M. P. Joseph and certain other Christian Graduates resident in Trivandrum.

7. Petition dated the 24th Edavom 1090, from the Revd. Father Yohannan and others, Syrian Christian inhabitants of Nedumpurom proverthi.

8. Telegram dated the 10th June 1915, from Rt. Revd. Mar Thomas Kurialacherry, of Pella and Vicar Apostolic of C[illegible]anacherry, praying for a postponement of the consideration of the Bill.

9. Petition received on [illegible]une 1915, from the Revd. Father Gee Vargh[illegible] of the Kizhakkamputhur C[illegible]ers, Syrian Christian inhabitants of the Thiruvella

10. Petition receive[illegible] June 1915, from the Syrian Christians of Kottayam.

The Ag. Secretary reported that a petition, dated the 15th June 1915, had been received from Mr. P. [illegible]eswaran Pillai of Kadukkara, on the Nanjanad Vellala Bill.

THE NANJANAD VELLALA BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar then introduced the Nanjanad Vellala Bill, and spoke as follows :—

"Sir,

I beg to introduce a Bill regulating the law of marriage and the rights accruing such [illegible]rriage among the Nanjanad Marumakkathayam Vellalas. The Bill follows the sugges

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Committee appointed for the purpose. The provisions regarding marriage and its ion are taken from the Nair Regulation. As to the nature or character of the property ıands of the widow or widows and children of a Nanjanad Vellala, the report is silent; ılieve that there can be no objection in adopting the provisions of the Nair Regulation on ject. The rights of a Nanjanad Marumakkathayam woman marrying a Makkathayam and those of her children are regulated by the ordinary Hindu Law (9 T. L. R. Page 21). ve therefore been exempted from the operation of the Regulation. No provision has ıde about the marriage of a Marumakkathayam Vellala male with a Makkathayam Vellala as the report is silent on the point, and as there are no direct authorities on the question ıether such marriages do take place at all.

beg to move that the principle of the Bill be affirmed."

nded by Mr. Vieyra.

Kumara Pillai observed that the Committee appointed to enquire into and re- of the Vellalas had found that the community did not stand ... need of ... in the matter of social legislation, that the enquiry held by the Committee ... nsidered to be complete and the questions referred to them, exhaustive, and that ırrived at by the Committee should not therefore be taken as final. He said that ill was defective in so far as it did not meet the actual demands of the community. nad Vellalas were Marumakkathayees closely resembling the Nairs in several id, as such, they ought naturally to look up to the Nair Regulation for guidance. From ndpoint, the Bill should be considered defective in several respects. As an instance, nber pointed out the absence, in the Bill, of a provision similar to Section 12 of the Nair gulation, by which the wife and children of a deceased male could inherit the whole of his property in the absence of any undivided Marumakkathayam heirs. The only question referred to the Committee on the subject was about the levy of adiyara fee on succession, the abolition of which, though strongly recommended by the Committee, was not included in the proposed Bill by the Mover. Mr. Kumara Pillai further pointed out that Section 6 of the Wills Regulation, VI of 1074, was repealed by the Nair Regulation in so far as it related to the Nair community, thereby giving full testamentary powers to the members of that community over their separate and self-acquired property, while no similar concession was allowed by the present Bill to the Nanjanad Marumakkathayam Vellalas. Another point suggested by the Member was with reference to Section 15 of the proposed Bill. He said that the provisions of that Section, fixing the share of a Nanjanad Marumakkathayam Vellala in his Tharavad properties, at what it would be if they had been divided, among all the *adult* male members of the Tharavad, were contrary to the custom of the community and the case law on the subject. Mr. Kumara Pillai affirmed that there was no dispute at all with regard to the share referred to in the Section, for the computation of which *all* the male members of a Tharavad were uniformly taken into account, but that the dispute had all along been as to what portion of that share had to be taken into account for the calculation of the *Nankudama* and *Ukanthudama* rights. He therefore said that Section 15 of the Bill, which excluded all but the *adult* male members in the calculation of the share of a Nanjanad Vellala male member of a family, would not be acceptable to the community. Mr. Kumara Pillai concluded by requesting that the above suggestions might be considered by the Council in connection with the proposed Bill.

Mr. Parameswaran Pillai seconded Mr. Kumara Pillai.

Mr. Subba Aiyar replied that the Wills Regulation as a whole was to be amended very shortly, and suggested that the Member's observations on that point might be considered in that connection. He also pointed out that the question of the levy of adiyara fees and matters connected with adoption were purely Government measures which could not come within the scope of any legislative enactment.

The President said that the observations made by Mr. Kumara Pillai might be considered at the time of the discussion of the Bill in the Council, and suggested that the principle of the Bill might be affirmed.

The Council adopted the President's suggestion.

Mr. Subba Aiyar then moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Mover and Messrs. Vieyra, Kuriyan, Parameswara Menon and Kumara Pillai, to report within six months.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

THE LAND CONSERVANCY REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar, in introducing the Land Conservancy Regulation Amendment Bill, spoke as follows :—

R,

I beg to introduce a Bill to amend the Land Conservancy Regulation. Considerable diffi- having been experienced in the practical working of the Regulation, the opinions of all

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